

# MIN

2. Gay has improperly made it a substantive.  
Here shall the pencil bid its colours flow,  
And make a miniature creation grow. *Gay.*  
MINIKIN. *adj.* 1. Small; diminutive. Used in slight contempt.  
Sleepest, or wakest thou, jolly shepherd,  
Thy sheep be in the corn;  
And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,  
Thy sheep shall take no harm. *Shakefp. King Lear.*  
MINIM. *n. f.* [from *minus*, Lat.]  
1. A small being; a dwarf.  
Not all  
Minims of nature; some of serpent-kind,  
Wond'rous in length, and corpulence, involv'd  
Their snaky folds, and added wings. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
2. This word is applied, in the northern counties, to a small  
fort of fish, which they pronounce *minim*. See MINNOW.  
MINIMUS. *n. f.* [Latin.] A being of the least size.  
Get you gone, you dwarf,  
You minimus of hind'ring knot-grass made;  
You bead, you acorn. *Shakespeare.*  
MINION. *n. f.* [*mignon*, French.] A favourite; a darling; a  
low dependant; one who pleases rather than benefits. A  
word of contempt, or of slight and familiar kindness.  
Minion, said she; indeed I was a pretty one in those days;  
I see a number of lads that love you. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
They were made great courtiers, and in the way of *minions*,  
when advancement, the most mortal offence to envy,  
stirred up their former friend to overthrow them. *Sidney.*  
One, who had been a special *minion* of Andromanas, hated  
us for having dispossest him of her heart. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Go rate thy *minions*;  
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms  
Before thy sovereign. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*  
Duncan's horses,  
Beauteous and swift, the *minions* of the race,  
Turn'd wild in nature. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
His company must do his *minions* grace,  
Whilst I at home starve for a merry look. *Shakespeare.*  
Edward sent one army into Ireland; not for conquest, but  
to guard the person of his *minion* Piers Gaveston. *Davies.*  
If a man should launch into the history of human nature,  
we should find the very *minions* of princes linked in conspira-  
cies against their master. *L'Estrange's Fables.*  
The drowly tyrant by his *minions* led,  
To regal rage devotes some patriot's head. *Swift.*  
MINIOUS. *adj.* [from *minutus*, Latin.] Of the colour of red  
lead or vermilion.  
Some conceive, that the Red Sea receiveth a red and *minious*  
tincture from springs that fall into it. *Brown.*  
To MINISH. *v. a.* [from *diminish*; *minus*, Latin.] To lessen;  
to lop; to impair.  
Ye shall not *minish* ought from your bricks of your daily  
task. *Exod. v. 19.*  
They are *minished* and brought low through oppression.  
*Psal. cvii. 39.*  
Another law was to bring in the silver of the realm to the  
mint, in making all elipt, *minished*, or impaired coins of sil-  
ver, not to be current in payments. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
MINISTER. *n. f.* [*minister*, Latin; *ministre*, Fr.]  
1. An agent; one who is employed to any end; one who acts  
not by any inherent authority, but under another.  
You, whom virtue hath made the princeps of felicity, be  
not the *minister* of ruin. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Rumble thy belly full; spit fire, spout rain,  
Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughters;  
I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness:  
But yet I call you servile *ministers*,  
That have with two pernicious daughters join'd  
Your high-engender'd battles, 'gainst a head  
So old and white as this. *Shakefp. King Lear.*  
Th' infernal *minister* advanc'd,  
Seiz'd the due victim. *Dryden's Theodore and Honoria.*  
Other spirits govern'd by the will,  
Shoot through their tracks, and distant muscles fill;  
This sovereign, by his arbitrary nod,  
Restrains or lends his *ministers* abroad. *Blackmore.*  
2. One who is employed in the administration of govern-  
ment.  
Kings must be answerable to God, but the *ministers* to  
kings, whose eyes, ears, and hands they are, must be an-  
swerable to God and man. *Bacon.*  
3. One who serves at the altar; one who performs sacerdotal  
functions.  
Epaphras, a faithful *minister* of Christ. *1 Col. i. 7.*  
The *ministers* are always preaching, and the governors  
putting forth edicts against dancing and gaming. *Addison.*  
The *ministers* of the gospel are especially required to shine  
as lights in the world, because the distinction of their station

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renders their conduct more observable; and the presumption  
of their knowledge, and the dignity of their office, gives a  
peculiar force and authority to their example. *Rogers.*  
4. A delegate; an official.  
If wrongfully  
Let God revenge; for I may never lift  
An angry arm against his *minister*. *Shakefp. Rich. II.*  
5. An agent from a foreign power, without the dignity of an  
ambassador.  
To MINISTER. *v. a.* [*ministrare*, Latin.] To give; to supply;  
to afford.  
All the customs of the Irish would *minister* occasion of a  
most ample discourse of the original and antiquity of that  
people. *Spenser on Ireland.*  
Now he that *ministereth* feed to the fower, both *minister*  
bread for your food and multiply your feed fown. *2 Cor. ix.*  
The wounded patient bears  
The artist's hand that *ministers* the cure. *Orway's Orphan.*  
To MINISTER. *v. n.*  
1. To attend; to serve in any office.  
Certain of them had the charge of the *ministering* vessels,  
to bring them in and out by tale. *1 Chron. ix. 28.*  
They which *minister* about holy things, live of the things  
of the temple. *1 Cor. ix. 13.*  
At table Eve  
*Minister'd* naked, and their flowing cups  
With pleasant liquors crown'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*  
2. To give medicines.  
Canst thou not *minister* to a mind diseas'd,  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain? *Shak. Macb.*  
3. To give supplies of things needful; to give assistance; to  
contribute; to conduce.  
Others *ministered* unto him of their substance. *Luke viii. 3.*  
He who has a soul wholly void of gratitude, should set his  
soul to learn of his body; for all the parts of that *minister* to  
one another. *South's Sermons.*  
There is no truth which a man may more evidently make  
out than the existence of a God; yet he that shall con-  
tent himself with things as they *minister* to us pleasures and  
passions, and not make enquiry a little farther into their  
causes and ends, may live long without any notion of such a  
being. *Locke.*  
Those good men, who take such pleasure in relieving the  
miserable for Christ's sake, would not have been less forward  
to *minister* unto Christ himself. *Atterbury.*  
Fasting is not absolutely good, but relatively, and as it  
*ministers* to other virtues. *Smalridge's Sermons.*  
4. To attend on the service of God.  
Whether prophesy, let us prophesy according to the pro-  
portion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our *ministering*.  
*Rom. xii. 7.*  
MINISTERIAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.]  
1. Attendant; acting at command.  
Understanding is required in a man; courage and vivacity  
in the lion; service, and *ministerial* officiousness, in the ox.  
*Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
From essences unseen, celestial names,  
Enlight'ning spirits, and *ministerial* flames,  
Lift we our reason to that sovereign cause,  
Who blest'd the whole with life. *Prior.*  
2. Acting under superior authority.  
For the *ministerial* officers in court there must be an eye  
unto them. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*  
Abstinence, the apostle determines, is of no other real  
value in religion, than as a *ministerial* cause of moral effects;  
as it recalls us from the world, and gives a serious turn to  
our thoughts. *Rogers's Sermons.*  
3. Sacerdotal; belonging to the ecclesiastics or their office.  
These speeches of Jerom and Chrysostom plainly allude  
unto such *ministerial* garments as were then in use. *Hooker.*  
4. Pertaining to ministers of state, or persons in subordinate au-  
thority.  
MINISTRY. *n. f.* [*ministerium*, Lat.] Office; service. This  
word is now contracted to *ministry*, but used by *Milton* as  
four syllables.  
They that will have their chamber filled with a good scent,  
make some odoriferous water be blown about it by their ser-  
vants mouths that are dextrous in that *ministry*. *Digby.*  
This temple to frequent  
With *ministries* due, and solemn rites. *Milton, b. xii.*  
MINISTRAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.] Pertaining to a minister.  
MINISTRANTS. *adj.* [from *minister*.] Attendant; acting at  
command.  
Him thrones, and pow'rs,  
Princedom, and dominations *ministrant*,  
Accompany'd to heav'n-gate. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*  
*Ministrant* to their queen with busy care,  
Four faithful handmaids the soft robes prepare. *Pope.*  
MINISTRATION. *n. f.*

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MINISTRATION. *n. f.* [from *ministrare*, Latin.]  
1. Agency; intervention; office of an agent delegated or com-  
missioned by another.  
God made him the instrument of his providence to me, as  
he hath made his own land to him, with this difference, that  
God, by his *ministration* to me, intends to do him a favour.  
*Taylor's living holy.*  
Though sometimes effected by the immediate fiat of the  
divine will, yet I think they are most ordinarily done by the  
*ministration* of angels. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
2. Service; office; ecclesiastical function.  
If the present *ministration* be more glorious than the for-  
mer, the minister is more holy. *Atterbury's Sermons.*  
MINIUM. *n. f.* [Latin.]  
Melt lead in a broad earthen vessel unglazed, and stir it  
continually till it be calcined into a grey powder; this is  
called the calx of lead; continue the fire, stirring it in the  
same manner, and it becomes yellow; in this state it is used  
in painting, and is called mafficot or mafficot; after this put  
it into a reverberatory furnace, and it will calcine further,  
and become of a fine red, which is the common *minium* or  
red lead: among the ancients *minium* was the name for cin-  
nabar: the modern *minium* is used externally, and is excel-  
lent in cleansing and healing old ulcers. *Hill's Mat. Med.*  
MINISTRY. *n. f.* [contracted from *ministry*; *ministrum*, Lat.]  
1. Office; service.  
So far is an indistinction of all persons, and, by conse-  
quence, an anarchy of all things, so far from being agree-  
able to the will of God, declared in his great household, the  
world, and especially in all the *ministries* of his proper house-  
hold the church, that there was never yet any time, I be-  
lieve, since it was a number, when some of its members  
were not more faced than others. *Sprat's Sermons.*  
2. Office of one set apart to preach; ecclesiastical function.  
Their *ministry* perform'd, and race well run,  
Their doctrine and their story written left,  
They die. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*  
Saint Paul was miraculously called to the *ministry* of the  
gospel, and had the whole doctrine of the gospel from God  
by immediate revelation; and was appointed the apostle of  
the Gentiles for propagating it in the heathen world. *Locke.*  
3. Agency; interposition.  
The natural world he made after a miraculous manner;  
but directs the affairs of it ever since by standing rules, and  
the ordinary *ministry* of second causes.  
The poets introduced the *ministry* of the gods, and taught  
the separate existence of human souls. *Bentley's Sermons.*  
4. Business.  
He safe from loud alarms,  
Abhor'd the wicked *ministry* of arms. *Dryden's Æn.*  
5. Persons employed in the public affairs of a state.  
I converse in full freedom with many considerable men of  
both parties; and if not in equal number, it is purely acci-  
dental, as happening to have made acquaintance at court  
more under one *ministry* than another. *Swift.*  
MINNOCK. *n. f.* Of this word I know not the precise mean-  
ing. It is not unlikely that *minnock* and *minx* are originally  
the same word.  
An ass's noll I fixed on his head;  
Anon his Thistle must be answered,  
And forth my minnock comes. *Shakespeare.*  
MINNOW. *n. f.* [*minneus*, French.] A very small fish; a pink;  
a corruption of *minim*, which see.  
Hear you this triton of the *minnow*? *Shakespeare.*  
The *minnow*, when he is in perfect season, and not sick,  
which is only presently after spawning, hath a kind of dappled  
or waved colour, like a panther, on his sides, inclining to a  
greenish and sky-colour, his belly being milk-white, and his  
back almost black or blackish: he is a sharp biter at a small  
worm in hot weather, and in the Spring they make excellent  
*minnow* tansies; for being washed well in salt, and their heads  
and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, being fried with  
yolks of eggs, primroses and tansy. *Walton's Angler.*  
The nimble turning of the *minnow* is the perfection of *min-  
now* fishing. *Walton's Angler.*  
MINOR. *adj.* [Latin.]  
1. Petty; inconsiderable.  
If there are petty errors and *minor* lapses, not consid-  
erably injurious unto faith, yet is it not late to condemn inferi-  
our fallacies. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*  
2. Less; smaller.  
They altered this custom from cases of high concernment  
to the most trivial debates, the *minor* part ordinarily entering  
their protest. *Clarendon.*  
The difference of a third part in so large and collective an  
account is not strange, if we consider how differently they  
are set forth in *minor* and less mistakeable numbers.  
*Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
MINOR. *n. f.*  
1. One under age; one whose youth cannot yet allow him to  
manage his own affairs.

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King Richard the Second, the first ten years of his reign;  
was a *minor*. *Davies on Ireland.*  
He and his muse might be *minors*, but the liberties are  
full grown. *Collier's View of the Stage.*  
Long as the year's dull circle seems to run,  
When the brisk *minor* pants for twenty-one. *Pope.*  
The noblest blood of England having been shed in the  
grand rebellion, many great families became extinct, or sup-  
ported only by *minors*. *Swift.*  
A *minor* or infant cannot be said to be contumacious, be-  
cause he cannot appear as a defendant in court, but by his  
guardian. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*  
2. The second or particular proposition in the syllogism.  
The second or *minor* proposition was, that this kingdom  
hath cause of just fear of overthrow from Spain. *Bacon.*  
He supposed that a philosopher's brain was like a forest,  
where ideas are ranged like animals of several kinds; that  
the major is the male, the *minor* the female, which copulate  
by the middle term, and engender the conclusion. *Arbutnot.*  
To MINORATE. *v. a.* [from *minor*, Lat.] To lessen; to di-  
minish. A word not yet admitted into the language.  
This it doth not only by the advantageous assistance of a  
tube, but by shewing in what degree distance *minimates* the  
object. *Glover's Scept.*  
MINORATION. *n. f.* [from *minorare*.] The act of lessening;  
diminution; decrease. A word not admitted.  
Bodies emit virtue without abatement of weight, as is most  
evident in the loadstone, whose efficiencies are communicable  
without a *minoration* of gravity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
We hope the mercies of God will consider our degenerated  
integrity unto some *minoration* of our offences. *Brown.*  
MINORITY. *n. f.* [*minorité*, Fr. from *minor*, Latin.]  
1. The state of being under age.  
I mov'd the king, my master, to speak in the behalf of  
my daughter, in the *minority* of them both. *Shakespeare.*  
He is young, and his *minority*  
Is put into the trust of Richard Gloster. *Shakespeare.*  
These changes in religion should be staid, until the king  
were of years to govern by himself: this the people apper-  
hending worse than it was, a question was raised, whether,  
during the king's *minority*, such alterations might be made or  
no. *Howard's Edw. VI.*  
Henry the Eighth, doubting he might die in the *minority* of  
his son, procured an act to pass, that no statute made during  
the *minority* of the king should bind him or his successors, ex-  
cept it were confirmed by the king at his full age. But the  
first act that passed in king Edward the Sixth's time, was a  
repeal of that former act; at which time nevertheless the  
king was *minor*. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
If there be evidence, that it is not many ages since nature  
was in her *minority*, this may be taken for a good proof that  
she is not eternal. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*  
Their counsels are warlike and ambitious, though some-  
thing tempered by the *minority* of their king. *Temple.*  
2. The state of being less.  
From this narrow time of gestation may ensue a *minority*,  
or smallness in the exclusion. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*  
3. The smaller number: as, the *minority* held for that question  
in opposition to the majority.  
MINOTAUR. *n. f.* [*minotaur*, French; *minos* and *taurus*.] A  
monster invented by the poets, half man and half bull, kept  
in Dædalus's labyrinth.  
Thou may'st not wander in that labyrinth,  
There *minotaurs*, and ugly trefons lurk. *Shakespeare.*  
MINSTER. *n. f.* [*munstre*, Saxon.] A monastery; an eccle-  
siastical fraternity; a cathedral church. The word is yet re-  
tained at York and Lichfield.  
MINSTREL. *n. f.* [*menstrel*, Spanish; *menestrallus*, low Latin.]  
A musician; one who plays upon instruments.  
Hark how the *minstrels* 'gin to shrill aloud  
Their merry musick that rebounds from far,  
The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling croud,  
That well agree withouten breach or jar. *Spenser's Epithal.*  
I will give you the *minstrel*.  
—Then I will give you the serving creature. *Shakespeare.*  
I to the vulgar am become a jest;  
Esteemed as a *minstrel* at a feast. *Sandys's Paraphrase.*  
These fellows  
Were once the *minstrels* of a country shew;  
Follow'd the prizes through each paltry town,  
By trumpet-cheeks and bloated faces known.  
Often our feers and poets have confest'd,  
That musick's force can tame the furious beast;  
His rage; the wolf, or foaming boar restrain  
Attentive to the song; the lynx forget  
His wrath to man, and lick the *minstrel's* feet. *Prior.*  
MINSTRELSEY. *n. f.* [from *minstrel*.]  
1. Musick; instrumental harmony.  
Apollo's self will envy at his play,  
And all the world applaud his *minstrelsey*. *Davies.*  
That